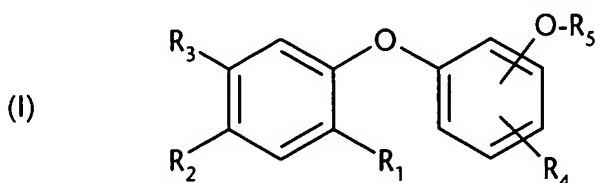


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the prior claims listing by the following listing.

1-5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended): A method of ~~reducing body odour by means of the~~ inhibition of arylsulfatase on the skin of a person in need of said inhibition, which comprises applying to said skin a ~~cosmetic deodorant or antiperspirant~~ composition comprising an effective amount of at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently from each other are hydrogen; hydroxy; C₁-C₂₀alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₅-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkoxy; C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl;

R₄ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₅-C₇cycloalkyl; hydroxy; formyl; acetyl; allyl; carboxy; carboxy-C₁-C₃alkyl; carboxyallyl; C₂-C₂₀alkenyl; C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl; C₁-C₃alkylcarbonyl-C₁-C₃alkyl; phenyl; or phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl; and

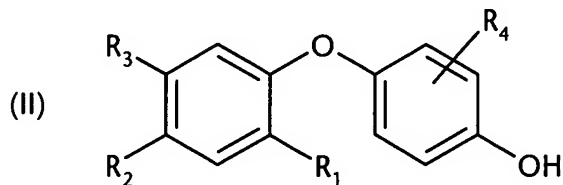
R₅ is hydrogen; C₁-C₂₀alkoxy; or C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, with the proviso that at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃ or R₄ is OH or R₅ is hydrogen.

7-8 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended): A method of ~~reducing body odour~~ inhibition of arylsulfatase according to claim 6 wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used gender-specifically in respect of the amount and/or nature thereof.

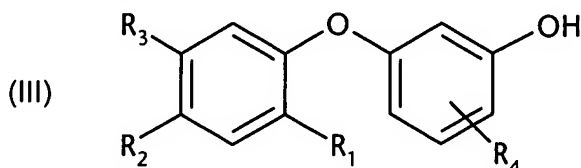
9. (currently amended): Method of ~~reducing body odour~~ inhibition of arylsulfatase according to claim 6, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used for reducing body odour in men.

10. (new): A method according to claim 6, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



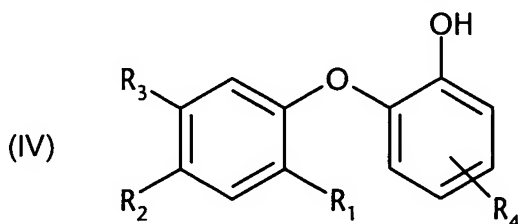
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy, phenyl or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group,

hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group, and

hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group.

11. (new): A method of inhibition of arylsulfatase according to claim 6 wherein the composition comprising an effective amount of at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is a deodorant or antiperspirant composition.